

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-4 have been amended to further clarify the features of the present invention. Support for the amendment of the claims can be found at least at Fig. 6 (S7). Since all the elements of the amended claims were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims, as examined, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the response on the record. The response will present Applicants' position in a better form for appeal. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071,540) in view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352, hereinafter Dailey).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071,540). The Official Action states that Dworkin discloses all the Applicants' claim limitations with the exception of providing meeting content in a request. However, the Official Action cites Dailey as describing this more detailed aspect of the Applicants' invention, and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references for arriving at Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information processing server, including:

... a generation unit configured to generate a group chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation;

a providing unit configured to provide a group chat space to the first terminal and the second terminal designated to be distributed by the first terminal; and

a supply unit configured to automatically supply the whole or a part of the contents of group chatting performed in the group chat space to the first terminal after completion of the delivery of the first service to the second terminal. (emphasis added)

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104). Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, which are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).¹

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may use third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other users. In addition, the ASP may employ a messaging utility (122), such that upon registration, a user downloads an instant messaging plug-in for use with a user interface (100B). In this way, the user can initiate a conference by inviting other instant messaging participants registered with the ASP.²

¹ Dworkin at paragraph 14.

² Dworkin at paragraphs 16-17.

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention, a live distribution service for streaming contents to users is provided in accordance with a reservation made in advance. In operation, a user, such as a personal computer (3), provides contents for distribution according to a reservation to a streaming server (5). Personal computers (4-1 - 4-3) receive the streaming contents from the streaming server according to the reservation made by the personal computer (3).³ During the delivery of the streaming content, a group chat space is created corresponding to the reservation of the streaming distribution.

With regard to the group chat space, upon conclusion of the delivery of the streaming content, such as during a video conference, a supply unit automatically provides the contents of the group chatting to the first terminal (terminal making the initial reservation) after completion of the delivery of the first service. In other words, after the video conference is completed, the discussion between participants is automatically delivered to the entity which scheduled the conference.

Although the Official Action has cited paragraph 27 of Dworkin as disclosing the provision of the whole, or part, of content of chatting performed in a chat space to a first terminal after completion of the delivery of the first service to a second terminal, Applicants note that this paragraph does not disclose such a feature. Specifically, although the term "play back" is recited in paragraph 27, this has nothing to do with the provision of content of a chat space to the terminal making the reservation, automatically upon completion of a further service. Quite the contrary, the use of the term "play back" refers to the manner in which a user may log into a server to view a previously presented broadcast. Dworkin does not disclose, or suggest, providing the contents of a chat space, automatically, to a terminal making the initial reservation upon completion of a service distribution.

³ Application at page 8.

As Dailey does not remedy the deficiency discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-4, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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